

Mary McCanta
5916 Dover Street
Oakland CA 94609

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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

It's ridiculous for US Telecom to claim that eliminating access to local copper networks "would not materially affect competition". Pacific Bell lines, now owned by AT&T, are the only way for small providers to provide access to large swaths of the Bay Area, so I can only imagine that the situation would be worse in rural areas.

As consumers we deserve a choice of providers for internet and phone access, and without access to the copper network we would have only one or two choices for each. That is not allowing competition! I have used a local telecom for DSL and phone service for many years and dread having to go back to using one the "big guys". Having a local person to talk to when I need help makes all the difference in the world, but without access to the copper networks my small provider would not be able to reach my home.

Please don't hamstring small businesses! Mine, or my small providers. It's unfair and hurts consumers the most.

Thank you,

Mary McCanta